

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE, HELD AT THE
MAJESTIC HOTEL, PALMERSTON NORTH ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,
11th. AND 12th. FEBRUARY, 1944, COMMENCING AT 11 A.M.
ON THE FORMER DATE.

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PRESENT :- Messrs. E. A. Field (Dominion President), W. J. Lennon, Vice-President), E. D. Williams, J. Mc.Fadzien, T. F. Penrose, E. J. Kirk and the Secretary (Mr. G. V. Fraser).

NOTICE OF MEETING :- The Secretary read the Notice of Meeting called for 1 p.m.

Mr. Lennon explained to members his reason for arranging the meeting earlier than the time notified and on the motion of Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Penrose it was unanimously resolved to immediately proceed with the business instead of waiting for the time fixed in the Notice.

MINUTES of the meeting held on the 30th. June, 1943 were read.

Mr. Mc.Fadzien asked for an explanation for the rescinding of the motion dealing with the duplicating and circulating of balance sheets to Branches. The explanation was duly given.

The President referred to the resolution dealing with the Secretary's salary, stating that he understood the meaning of the resolution to be that the Secretary's salary was fixed at £100 as from the time he took over the work and suggested that the motion should be corrected.

Mr. Lennon contended that the motion as shown in the Minute Book was meant for the coming year.

Mr. Penrose, who was the mover of the motion, said his understanding when moving the resolution was that the salary was being fixed from the date of the Secretary's appointment.

It was thereupon resolved on the motion of Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Williams, to delete the words "raised to" in the Minutes.

The minutes were then confirmed on the resolution of Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Williams.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT :- The Secretary presented an interim financial statement, which after a brief discussion, "was received" on the motion of Mr. Lennon seconded by Mr. Williams.

PRICE OF HONEY :- At this stage the President gave an outline of what had taken place in this connection since last Conference and reviewed his personal contacts with the Minister of Marketing and various organisations.

Mr. Lennon commented upon the activities of the Standing Committee in the deliberations which had taken place and stated that as the meeting had taken the form of a more or less informal discussion, no minutes of the proceedings had been taken.

Mr. Penrose criticised this procedure and contended that it was essential that minutes of the Standing Committee should be kept.

Mr. Lennon was most emphatic in his censure of the Committee for its failure in not carrying out the intention to put out costing schedules to Branches for subsequent presentation to the Authorities.

There followed a general discussion in which was stressed the difficulty of fully interpreting the wishes of Conference.

Mr. Kirk then submitted facts and figures re costs and returns of his own Apiary. Following a short discussion, proceedings were interrupted by a motion moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Lennon "that the meeting be adjourned till 2 p.m." This was carried.

Prior to the adjournment being taken however, Mr. Penrose, rose to a point of order and said that he strongly resented the remarks made earlier in the meeting by the President in reference to a statement he (Mr. Penrose) was alleged to have made at the meeting of the Manawatu Branch the previous evening. Both Mr. Penrose and the President made partial explanations and the meeting adjourned on the understanding that the matter could be ventilated at a later stage if desired.

Upon the meeting resuming at 2 p.m. it was decided to first consider the matter of decreased income of producers. Mr. Penrose said he was dissatisfied with the previous decision of the meeting before the luncheon adjournment but he would remain and take part in the discussions on prices.

Dealing with the loss of income under stabilisation, Mr. Lennon outlined the case he had prepared under three headings, viz, (1) Packing costs, (2) Increased cost of truck running, (3) Cost of living. Basing his calculations on an average grade of 94, Mr. Lennon said that before the War 2/3rd. of the honey was sold on the open market at the highest price while not more than 1/3rd. at the most was supplied to the I.M.D. at bulk prices. Under the regulations however, more than 2/3rds. of the crop had to be supplied at the bulk price and less than 1/3rd. disposed of in the higher price ranges. Based on the I.M.D. price of 7½d. under regulation, he considered that the producer received at the very least 2d. per lb. less than was the case prior to the regulations.

Mr. Penrose gave the official average grading for the Dominion over the period 1938-1941. The figure was 89.59. Members considered that it was preferable to take the average grading at 90 and this was agreed upon.

Increased costs were then discussed and the figure agreed upon on tins, cases and cartons was equivalent to ½d. per lb. Wages and lorry-running costs were considered to be too insignificant to include at this stage.

It was therefore resolved on the motion of Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Penrose, "that the Executive present its case for an increased price to the Minister under two headings, - viz. Stabilisation and Decreased Income."

It was further resolved on the motion of Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Williams, "that those members remaining in residence at the Hotel be appointed a sub-committee to finalise details of price figures to be presented to the Minister."

The time now being 5.30 p.m. an adjournment till 6.30 p.m. was taken on the motion of Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Williams.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION :- The meeting resumed at 7 p.m. when the question of Amendments to the Constitution was dealt with. Mr. Lennon presented the proposals which had already been adopted by the Standing Committee and had also been dealt with in correspondence between the Secretary and members of the Executive. Mr. Lennon also elaborated upon the views of the Standing Committee in regard to the proposals.

Mr. Penrose then outlined his proposals in regard to amending the method of voting.

A considerable discussion ensued following which it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Williams, "that the proposed amendments based on a 600 hives maximum at 3d. per hive be adopted." Moved by Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Penrose, "that the proposed amendments be submitted to Branches. That they be asked to vote on (1) the financial aspect. (2) the voting Branches to report back to the General Secretary not later than the 30th. April" This was carried. In connection with this resolution it was decided to inform Branches that the hive basis named was recommended and was considered to be the minimum as far as the amount of finance required was concerned and that if this figure were made lower the rate per hive would have to be increased. Under the proposed amendments Branches would be allowed to retain approximately the same amount as at present. Mr. Penrose suggested that Branches be permitted to retain 25 per cent or 2/6d. per member whichever was the greater. It was decided however that this point should be held over till the next meeting.

VENUE OF CONFERENCE :- Moved by Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Mc.Fadzien, "that Conference this year be held in Christchurch." Carried.

DISTRIBUTION OF REMITS :- Resolved on the motion of Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Williams, "that remits be in the hands of the General Secretary by the 30th. April and that they be circulated to Branches by the middle of May."

REGISTRATION OF APIARIES :- Progress on this matter was reported by the President and Mr. Williams who related the discussions which had been held with the Minister on the matter. The Bill, the provisions of which had been approved by the Farmers' Federation was, it was understood, to be presented to Parliament at the forthcoming session.

At this stage 10.30 p.m. the meeting adjourned till the following morning at 9.30 a.m.

DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER :- Members reassembled at 9.30 a.m. on the 12th. February and an informal discussion only took place prior to the arrival of the Minister and his advisers. At 10 a.m. the Hon. B. Roberts, accompanied by Mr. Innes, Mr. Smith and Mr. Fraser arrived and was introduced by the President who expressed thanks to the visitors for coming from Wellington specially to meet the Executive.

Mr. Field said he felt sure that the Minister was desirous of becoming fully acquainted with the conditions of the industry and he stressed the difficulties facing producers in the different areas.

The Minister expressed pleasure at meeting the Executive and said he realised there was a lot to be learned about the industry over the whole Dominion. He stressed the necessity to fully organise the industry and said there was a need to form some plans for a definite national organisation which would result in orderly marketing and orderly production. He expressed the wish that endeavours would be made to develop the co-operative principle in all industries within the Dominion. He referred to the necessity for regulations in war-time and said that under these he was called upon to see that there was a fair distribution of produce. Consumers as well as Producers had to be considered. The overriding factor in all these things was Stabilisation and although this was not pleasant it was very necessary for economic reasons if the country was to avoid the disastrous slump which followed the last war. It was vitally necessary, he said, to find the proper approach to the difficulties which confronted the country and it was necessary also to organise for the difficult and hard times which were likely to follow the present war. Referring to the Internal Marketing Division the Minister said they were looking for the opportunity for organisation on a proper co-operative principle in dealing with matters of price and distribution.

The Minister then appealed for a spirit of conciliation and co-operation which ultimately must benefit both producer and consumer. He expressed the opinion that during the next 5 years the food position would be more acute than at any time during the past 5 years. He said that people were now more food conscious than ever before and that after the war we should be able to improve the returns from natural products by drawing attention to the need for health through natural foods and not through medicine. He concluded by saying that the regulations he knew were obnoxious but in war-time there was no alternative. Mr. Field said the point stressed by the Minister was co-operation and he agreed on the need for this. He then called upon Mr. Lennon to present the Association's case as prepared by the Executive.

After outlining the position and quoting the figures from the prepared statement Mr. Lennon drew the attention of the Minister to the fact that both the Honey Control Regulations and the Stabilisation order came into operation at practically the same time. Probably no other industry in the Dominion said Mr. Lennon, had had the basis of income upset at the same time as prices were stabilised.

Mr. Innes said that any application for an increase in price either by subsidy or otherwise would have to be submitted to the Stabilisation Commission. He stressed the point that expert advice was necessary in the preparation of a statement of increased material prices for presentation to the Commission. Mr. Field to Mr. Innes, "Does Stabilisation take into consideration that the 5 lb. limit on sales at the door restricted the sales from the door and made it necessary for Beekeepers to supply Stores and Wholesalers at a further loss of income."

The Minister, "What is the difference between the price at the door and the price to the retailer."

Mr. Field, "Approximately 3d. per lb. taking into consideration the price of cartons, packing etc. If sold to Merchants the loss would be greater still."

Mr. Innes, "If the Stabilisation Commission did concede those points, where are the facts?" He went on to say that the Beekeepers were not properly organised and that it would be impossible for them to give the same facts as they could if organised like the Dairy people. It would be a much harder struggle with the Stabilisation Commission unless the Beekeepers could furnish concrete evidence covering the whole industry with supporting invoices etc. for each year under consideration.

The Minister said that they would be only too pleased to assist the Association with advice on the presentation of their case but he warned members that there was no easy way of getting round the Stabilisation Commission through the Minister.

Mr. Fraser said it would at least be necessary to take two or three cases from each District and supply full details to the Commission.

Reverting to figures quoted, Mr. Lennon said that the matter of decreased income was affecting particularly those people who sold on the open market before the regulations were imposed.

Mr. Innes, "The Stabilisation Commission does not take a very sympathetic view of loss of income." He instanced the case of petrol re-sellers as an example.

Mr. Fraser said that in dealing with the matter of decreased income it would be necessary to make allowance for decreased distribution costs owing to the abnormal demand for honey which relieved the beekeeper of much of the previous effort in disposing of his crop. Mr. Lennon had stated that the I.M.D. was now getting two thirds of the honey produced. Unfortunately this was not so. They were getting only approximately one third. Therefore the beekeepers got actually the benefit of two thirds through private sales. He added a warning that the only avenue from which an increased price could come was from the Seals Reserves Fund or from Government Subsidy. There was no possibility of an increased cost to the consumer.

Mr. Penrose speaking in support of the Association's case pointed out that the figures supplied by the Executive were worked out on a very low basis. He gave facts and figures of production costs of his own apiary prior to the regulations. These figures even after making all allowances for compensating factors gave a nett return of 8.669d. in the tank.

Mr. McFadzien said the figures presented by Mr. Lennon were on a conservative basis as compared with figures relating to Southland. He contended that as the regulations were necessary for war-time purposes, the resultant loss of income to Beekeepers should be borne by the National community instead of by the individual beekeeper. This was only fair he concluded.

Mr. Kirk referred to the exceptional circumstances in the Wanganui area. Before the war the average tank return to Beekeepers in that area was 8d. per lb. The operation of the regulations had meant a reduction of approximately 3d. per lb. Wanganui was a particularly low producing area and as all honey produced in the area could be sold in Wanganui, this in normal times was compensation for low production area, whereas the regulations had greatly aggravated the position of the District.

Mr. Field said he felt that the Minister was now fully acquainted with the position as a whole and of the difficulties in different districts.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE :- The Minister then referred to his desire for the setting up of an advisory council so that difficulties which arose from time to time could be worked out. His idea was that the Council should comprise 2 members from the Association, 2 from the I.M.D. and a Chairman from the Government. Mr. Fraser reminded the Minister that the original suggestion was to include 2 members from the Honey Control Board.

The Minister agreed that the Control Board should be represented by 2 members and said the functions of the Committee would make it more of a Marketing Committee than an Advisory Committee. The idea was closer relations between the I.M.D. and the Industry. Mr. Field in reply said he thought there was good prospects of closer co-operation on the lines suggested.

Mr. Lennon referred to the historical setting of the Association and for that reason they must have an elective Board. Mr. Williams said the Minister's suggestion provided a great opportunity which should be grasped by Beekeepers. He expressed the opinion that there was little hope of success during the period of the regulations however, but after the war this would probably be achieved.

Mr. Mc.Fadzien, "Does this mean that the new Committee would supersede the Honey Control Board." Mr. Fraser replied in the negative and said that the Control Board, would still function. The time was now opportune for better organisation and it meant that the Board's work would be curtailed.

Mr. Lennon said that if they were to forego their right for an election it was only fair that the Government should make an honest gesture by retiring the present Control Board. After Mr. Field had expressed thanks to the Minister for his explanations, the visitors withdrew after the Minister had stated that he appreciated the friendly atmosphere which had prevailed and he was pleased to have had the opportunity of discussing matters with the Executive.

The meeting adjourned at 12.35 p.m. and resumed again at 1.30 p.m.

AFFILIATION WITH FARMERS' FEDERATION :- Resolved on the motion of Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Kirk, "that the affiliation of the N.B.A. with the Farmers' Federation be confirmed."

POSTAL BALLOT :- The President outlined the difficulties connected with the holding of a ballot. Mr. Penrose said he felt very strongly on this matter. He said there was no suggestion to impose any additional work on the Secretary unless special provision in this respect was made. However Canterbury had made a request for a ballot but no action had been taken. The question of the Marketing Regulations in particular called for a ballot. It was pointed out by the President that no application for a ballot had been received from Canterbury. At this stage further discussion was deferred until the marketing question had been considered in the light of the discussions with the Minister.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE :- In opening the discussion on this matter, the President said he thought it would be wise to accept the Minister's offer and appoint two members on the Committee.

Mr. Lennon then moved, "that we decline the offer of the Minister to appoint 2 members to an Advisory Committee of which 2 shall be from the Control Board, when the Control Board as at present constituted is also continuing in operation." This was seconded by Mr. Mc.Fadzien.

In speaking to the motion Mr. Lennon said he was of the opinion that the Government was asking for co-operation without giving any concession to the Association and the Association was not getting what it wanted i.e. an elective body.

Mr. Mc.Fadzien said that the idea was developing far too complicated a system of control. The functions of the proposed Committee were identical with those of the present Control Board.

Mr. Penrose supported the motion stating that it would be very unwise^a move to adopt the Minister's proposals. Mr. Williams said he could not see what useful function the new Committee could have while the present Control Board was in existence.

The President after hearing members views said he withdrew his remarks and the motion on being put was carried unanimously.

PRICE OF HONEY :- Referring to the discussions with the Minister, Mr. Penrose said that it seemed they had done all that could be done. Members were not in a position to set out sufficient data and figures to carry the matter further, even if this were warranted.

Mr. Williams said he could see no good reason for going any further. With the decreased income argument cut out they might get as far as 1/16d. which was not worth worrying about.

At this stage Mr. Penrose had to leave to make his train connection.

After a further general discussion it was unanimously resolved on the motion of Mr. Kirk, seconded by Mr. Williams, "that in view of the now limited scope available to the Executive in the presentation of a case for increased costs to the Stabilisation Commission, as indicated by the Minister, the Executive deems it inadvisable to proceed further with the matter at present and will report to Conference accordingly."

POSTAL BALLOT :- After further discussion on this matter the following motion moved by Mr. Lennon and seconded by Mr. Kirk was carried, "That the Executive having considered the resolution from Conference re postal ballot consider that in view of the new situation and because of the decisions just reached by the Executive, it is inadvisable to take a ballot at the present time."

SPECIAL ISSUE OF JOURNAL :- When general business was introduced, Mr. Lennon made a detailed statement on matters relating to the Special Marketing issue of the Journal and in doing so voiced a protest at the unsatisfactory position which developed. The President, in reply, made a full statement of the facts connected with the matter and Mr. Lennon intimated that he accepted the President's explanation.

At this stage the President said he felt impelled, in view of the dissatisfaction expressed, to ask the Executive for an expression of confidence or otherwise in himself as President.

The Secretary said he thought that the President had misinterpreted the position. The censure in regard to the Journal was levelled and rightly so, against the Standing Committee and in this respect he wished to take his full share of responsibility for the decision to publish the Marketing Regulations in a special issue of the Journal.

Mr. Mc.Fadzien said he was not able to support the action of the Standing Committee in regard to the special issue of the Journal.

Mr. Kirk said he was in the same position, although he would support a motion of confidence in the President he could not do so if the President insisted on coupling the vote of confidence with the special issue of the Journal.

A motion dealing with the matter, moved by Mr. Kirk and seconded by Mr. Williams was withdrawn on Mr. Williams having to leave the meeting to catch his train.

The discussion then lapsed.

CIRCULATION OF BALANCE SHEET AND REPORT :- Mr. Mc.Fadzien said this was a matter vital to all members who had a right to consider the annual statements.

NOTICE OF MOTION :- Mr. Mc.Fadzien then gave notice of his intention, at the next meeting of the Executive, to move the following motion, "That the Annual Report and Balance Sheet be made available to Branches, preferably through the official Journal."

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS :- The Secretary read the full reply received from the late Minister of Marketing (Mr. Barclay) regarding resolutions passed at the last Conference.

CONCLUSION :- In bringing the meeting to a close, the President thanked members for their attendance and assistance and expressed regret that time had not permitted Messrs. Penrose and Williams to remain till the end of the meeting.

Mr. Kirk proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the President for the able and fair manner in which the business of the meeting had been conducted. This was carried unanimously. Mr. Lennon endorsed Mr. Kirk's remarks and said he wished also to express thanks to the Secretary. This expression was also endorsed by members and the meeting terminated at 6.30 p.m.

CONFIRMED.

DATE..5-7-44.....

CHAIRMAN..C. A. Field.....

EMPIRE HOTEL, WELLINGTON, ON THE 5TH. 6TH. AND 7TH. JULY, 1944,

COMMENCING AT 9.30 A.M. ON THE FORMER DATE.

PRESENT :- Messrs. E. A. Field (President) W. J. Lennon, (Vice-President) E. D. Williams, E. J. Kirk, T. F. Penrose, J. Mc.Fadzien and the General Secretary (Mr. G. V. Fraser.).

NOTICE OF MEETING was read by the Secretary.

MINUTES of the meeting held at Palmerston North on the 11th. & 12th. February, 1944 were read and confirmed subject to comment by Mr. Penrose regarding the difference of opinions between himself and the President concerning happenings at a meeting of the Manawatu Branch.

Mr. Penrose said he wished to have recorded the fact that the President had, at the Executive Meeting, apologised unreservedly before he (Mr. Penrose) left the meeting. This was agreed to unanimously.

PROCEDURE was then discussed and following a brief discussion it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Kirk, "that the Minister of Marketing be requested to meet the Executive at a time convenient to the Minister on Friday morning."

Resolved on the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Mc.Fadzien "that Mr. Stoupe be invited to meet the Executive early in the present afternoon."

On the motion of Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Williams it was resolved "that the Control Board be invited to meet the Executive and to outline its policy subsequent to Mr. Stoupe's visit."

DEPUTATION FROM SOUTH AUCKLAND :- The President informed members that a deputation from the South Auckland Branch had been invited to meet the Executive at 11 a.m. that day and it was agreed that correspondence dealing with the matter be read immediately.

The Secretary read the letters which had passed between the Branch and himself and also the copy of a letter which he had sent to the Minister regarding the intention of the South Auckland representatives to interview the Minister independently of the Executive. At this stage Mr. Williams said he wished to make it clear that he was not associated with the deputation to Wellington as arranged by his Branch. The matter was then discussed. Mr. Kirk said he thought, both in regard to the protest sent to the Secretary of the South Auckland Branch and in the letter forwarded to the Minister, that the Secretary had dealt with the matter very concisely and well. It was thereupon resolved on the motion of Mr. Kirk, seconded by Mr. Lennon "that the Secretary's action be endorsed and that the letters he had for-warded be approved."

Messrs. Holt (President) and Barber (Secretary) of the South Auckland Branch then waited upon the meeting and were welcomed by Mr. Field. The object of the Deputation was to place before the Executive figures relating to the costs of production in their Branch area. Mr. Holt explained their anxiety to have a costing schedule prepared and in this regard the Branch had considered two proposals. The first was to secure information from a number of beekeepers running efficient apiaries in the District and to submit their figures to a Professional Accountant with the object of ascertaining the average cost of production on that basis. The second proposal which had been adopted, was to get members to send their figures in to the Branch Secretary and for a special committee to work out the basis of costs from these. The resultant schedule which was submitted to the Executive and which showed a cost of 7.9d. per lb. on the basis of 3 tons per 100 hives and 7.5d. per lb. on the basis of 3½ tons per 100 hives was considered by the Deputation to be a fair figure. In answer to Mr. Penrose, Mr. Holt said that the schedule was worked out from the figures supplied by 7 members with holdings of from 200 to 500 hives and over. There followed a general discussion during which Mr. Holt stated that they had visited Wellington at the special invitation of the Chairman of the Control Board and their costing figures had been submitted to the Board as a whole for their consideration. The deputation was also taking advantage of an opportunity to meet the Minister in order to press for the early consideration by Parliament of the enactment of the Controlled Registration of apiaries.

The President said he greatly regretted the fact that the South Auckland Branch had arranged to meet the Minister while the General Executive was in Wellington. Mr. Holt said that the Registration of Apiaries had been decided upon at the Hastings Conference in 1939 and his Branch felt that they should have been placed on the Statute Book before this. He added that their action intended no personal affront to the President or any individual member of the Executive as a whole. In short they felt that the Executive was not doing its job (but they felt quite justified in their criticism of the Executive)

In addition to this Mr. Holt criticised the Editorials which appeared in the Journal. As a result, he contended, it was not possible to correctly gauge the policy of the Executive. In addition to stating that his Branch considered that an increased pay-out of at least £d. per lb. was urgently needed, Mr. Holt said his Branch was pressing for an elective Council with authority, to assist in the marketing of their produce. After further questioning and discussion, the Deputation withdrew after expressing the opinion that the Association should operate a Commercial Producers Committee within the framework of the existing organisation. The time being now 1 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

RESUMPTION MARKETING :-

At this stage, Messrs. Rentoul and Stoupe waited upon the meeting. These gentlemen were briefly welcomed by the President who made reference to the impending retirement of Mr. Rentoul as Manager of the Honey Section of the Division. Mr. Penrose endorsed the President's remarks and also took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Stoupe upon his appointment as Mr. Rentoul's successor. It was decided to place on record, appreciation of Mr. Rentoul's services to the Beekeeping Industry over a period of 30 years.

Both Mr. Rentoul and Mr. Stoupe expressed their thanks for the kindly references.

Mr. Stoupe gave a review of the operations of the Division during the year and stated that 1123 tons had been received to date, 100 tons of which was being shipped to London.

A general discussion then ensued, during which members referred to the fact that action had not been taken against people not complying with the regulations. Concern was also voiced over the fact that figures supplied revealed the fact that by far the larger portion of the priorities was going to the civilian population, and that in this respect there was by no means an equitable distribution, some of the honey even finding its way back to the country areas.

Mr. Stoupe gave an assurance that the position regarding supplies to country districts through the Metropolitan merchants would be reviewed with a view to preventing a recurrence of the trouble.

At this stage Messrs. Nelson, Penny and Robins of the Honey Control Board were ushered in and the discussion on marketing and of the Board's policy was continued.

After extending a welcome to the Board members, the President said that the feeling right throughout the Country was that there should be a modification of the present control and that the I.M.D. should take no more honey than was necessary for essential war priorities. There was also a considerable school of thought that these priorities should not include civilian requirements.

Mr. W. Nelson (Chairman of the Board) expressed pleasure at the invitation to meet the Executive and said he felt that more frequent meetings between the Board and the Executive would be of great advantage. He appealed for support for the work of the Board which he said, had in the past, been lacking. In view of this fact the Board had indicated to the Minister that it was quite prepared to go out of existence if the Industry felt it had some better scheme to put forward. Mr. Penrose to Mr. Nelson - "Have you any suggestions re amendments to the Regulations?"

Mr. Nelson - "Yes. Candidly the 70% was never fully agreed to by the Board, but the Board supported it on the grounds that it appeared necessary. Mr. Honeyfield had told them that 20 tons per month was required for Prisoner of War parcels alone. They had no option but to agree. Concerning the Regulations, he suggested a quota of so much per hive from Beekeepers with over 200 hives, the smaller men to be exempt. He thought 30 or 35lbs. per hive, or in other words 50% of the crop on the basis of 70 lbs. per hive, would be acceptable. This

would leave the Beekeeper with half of his crop to handle on his own behalf. He said that this suggestion had been put forward by Mr. Stoupe and the Board thought it was a good one.

Mr. Penrose asked what about the Beekeeper whose crop was only 25 or 30 lbs. per hive.

At this stage Mr. Stoupe gave an outline of his proposals, He said there were 220 Beekeepers with 100 hives and over, the total number of hives involved being 87,875. In the event of a poor crop provision could be made for the rentention by Beekeepers of a maximum of 10 lbs. per hive. He considered that the regulations should apply to every-one with 100 hives and over, all others to be exempt.

There then ensued a lengthy discussion on the question of priorities and quantities, explanations being given on all points by Messrs. Stoupe, Nelson and Rentoul.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE :- In opening the discussion on this matter Mr. Nelson said the Board had been very disappointed over the decision of the Executive at its Palmerston North meeting. He explained that the Board had been appointed for the duration of the War and it was expected to carry on under these provisions especially as the Board's appointment was confirmed by the War Cabinet. The position was governed by the decision of the War Cabinet that no change be made in the constitution of the Board during the war period. This matter was discussed further at some length after which Mr. Williams asked Mr. Nelson whether the Board had approached the Minister re price and if so how had they got on. Mr. Nelson replied in the affirmative and said they were not hopeful of receiving any concession from the Stabilisation Commission. The Minister had been sympathetic but wanted to know where the increase was to come from. Here Mr. Nelson made a suggestion. Up to the present he said, the whole of the seals money had gone into the Reserve Fund. He considered this was now as high as it need be for future requirements and that all seals funds now coming to hand should be paid out to the suppliers of the Division. Over the past 4 years if seals money had gone into the pool, $\frac{3}{4}$ d. pro rata more could have been paid to the producers. With the easing of the commandeers to the basis of 35 lbs. per hive more honey would be sold on the open market and consequently more seals money would go into the pool. However they would have to get the approval of the Stabilisation Commission to put this plan into effect.

In reply to Mr. McFadzien, Mr. Stoupe said - that the seals fund now stood at £17,013 while London funds amounted to £14,800.

At this stage, members of the Control Board withdrew and the time being 6.15 p.m. the meeting adjourned till 9.30 a.m. the following morning, the Secretary advising that an appointment had been made with the Minister for 10.30 a.m.

RESUMPTION was made at 9.30 a.m. on the 6th.

Mr. Lennon urged first the consideration of priorities and said the meeting should agree on the general principle that priorities are covered by a commandeers of No. 1 (urgent) 500 tons and No. 2 Civilian needs 500 (cities only) a total of 1000 tons.

With regard to Licensing of Apiary Sites, the Executive should urge the passage of the Bill at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Williams said he thought they were all in agreement on the question of priorities.

Mr. Kirk said that the Executive should be definite on the poundage basis. Mr. Stoupe had said that 35 lbs. was estimated to secure 1300 tons to the Division.

Mr. Penrose said that they should agree with the principle of a 30% commandeers, and also the disposal by way of pay-out, of the seals fund on each years supplies.

Following a general discussion on the question of what kind of a Board was desired, the meeting adjourned at 10.15 a.m. to keep its appointment with the Minister.

RESUMPTION was made at 2 p.m. with a brief general discussion upon the cancellation of Conference, Mr. Penrose stating that Conference should

be held at the end of July or early in August. It being pointed out by the President that there was no motion before the meeting, Mr. Penrose moved "that Conference be held early in August, members to make their own travelling arrangements." The motion lapsed for want of a seconder. Letters to and from the General Manager, N.Z. Railways relative to travel permits were received without being read, on the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Penrose and the matter then lapsed.

COSTS, PRICES & MARKETING :- Mr. Stoupe then arrived at the meeting and an open discussion took place on matters relating to Costs, Prices and Marketing.

SCOPE OF REGULATIONS :- It was then moved by Mr. Lennon, seconded by the President "that the Regulations remain at the present level of 20 hives and over."

An amendment was moved by Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Mc.Fadzien, "that the regulations remain on the same basis as at present - i.e. on 20 hives and over with a general exemption of 19 hives to all beekeepers." This was carried and on being put as the motion was also carried.

COMMANDEER :- Resolved on the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Kirk "that in order to reach an objective of a supply of 1000 tons to the Division and after allowing for exemptions, the poundage basis be calculated at 30 lbs. per hive, these regulations to apply for the war period only.

Resolved on the motion of Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Mc.Fadzien "that a hardship clause be provided under which, in a poor season, beekeepers will be allowed to retain a minimum of 10 lbs. per hive on the "20 hive and over" basis of supply".

Resolved on the motion of Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Mc.Fadzien "that for the purpose of implementing these Marketing Regulations, the statement of hive holdings as at the 1st. December be those submitted to the Department of Agriculture."

At this stage Mr. Lennon moved and Mr. Kirk seconded "that the three preceeding resolutions be moulded into one statement and that the basis be altered to 20 hives and over with no exemption, that the supply be 25 lbs. per hive with provision for a minimum retention of 10 lbs. per hive in a bad season."

An amendment was thereupon moved by Mr. Mc.Fadzien, seconded by Mr. Penrose, "that the provisions of the three resolutions concerned remain unaltered.

On being put, the amendment was carried. The amendment was then put as the motion and was carried with one dissentient voice, Mr. Lennon wishing his vote against the motion to be recorded.

EXECUTIVE BOARD :- This matter having been fully discussed from all angles, it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Lennon, seconded, by Mr. Penrose "that we approve of an Executive Board of 5 elective representatives and 3 Government appointees. That producer representatives be nominated and elected by producers who supply honey to the Division and/or purchase seals. (In terms of previous Conference decisions)".

Resolved on the motion of Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Mc.Fadzien "that the Government appointees be the Manager of the Honey Section, a representative of the Horticultural Department and the Director of the I.M.D. as Chairman. That the basis of voting be on the supply of 2 tons of honey or the purchase of £10 worth of seals by a bona fide producer in the 2 years preceeding the election, one vote for each item with a maximum of 10 votes."

At this stage the meeting adjourned until 6.30 p.m. (This proposal had to be abandoned as the meeting room was other-wise engaged after dinner.)

RESUMPTION was made at 9.20 a.m. on the 7th. with an informal discussion on the proposed Regulations.

BALANCE SHEET :- The Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts as at the 31st. May, 1944 was presented by the Secretary and was briefly discussed.

Resolved on the motion of Mr. Penrose, seconded by Mr. Lennon, "that the Balance Sheet be adopted".

SECRETARY'S SALARY :- Mr. Penrose said he wished to raise the question of an increase in the Secretary's salary. He paid a tribute to the services of the Secretary and said he felt that the present salary was inadequate for the additional work being carried out.

In the discussion which then took place members expressed the wish that an increase in salary be authorised, but the Secretary pointed out that the Association's Funds were not sufficient to provide for any increase. He expressed thanks for the consideration shown by members and while he agreed that the amount of work and time involved was not covered by the present salary, he would prefer, in the interests of the Association, that further consideration of the matter be deferred. It was thereupon resolved on the motion of Mr. Kirk, seconded by Mr. Williams "that the matter of an increase in the Secretary's salary be left to the Standing Committee to consider and report back at a later date."

DISCUSSION ON PRODUCTION & MARKETING PROPOSALS :-

Messrs. Fraser and Stoupe of the Internal Marketing Division then arrived and following the reading by the Secretary of the relative resolutions already passed, a general discussion took place which lasted until just before lunch time.

APPRECIATION :- After the withdrawal of Messrs. Fraser & Stoupe, Mr. Penrose said he would like to see placed on record an expression of appreciation of the services rendered by the Secretary. A resolution to this effect moved by Mr. Penrose, and seconded by Mr. McFadzien was then put and carried.

SYMPATHY :- The President made reference to the death of the following members :- Messrs. W. Hayne (Canterbury), Goodman (Clutha) and Lynn (Hawkes Bay), and any other members who had passed on and of whom the Executive had no record. A motion of sympathy was passed, members standing in silence as a mark of respect. Sympathy was also expressed with Mr. Sage whose second son was reported missing on Air Force operations.

SEALS LEVY :- Resolved on the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Kirk "that this Executive support the recommendation of the Control Board that in future, seals revenue be regarded as an equalisation fund and be paid out to the current seasons suppliers."

REHABILITATION :- A letter dealing with this subject was read from the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. Decided in reply to advise the Institute to contact the Chief Apiary Instructor as the best means of securing information as to the possibilities of placing men in various Districts. It was also decided that it was essential that returned men seeking a living in the Industry should receive suitable theoretical training in the practise of beekeeping. Also that where a sale of an apiary was taking place, returned servicemen should be given the first opportunity of purchase.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE :- From Branches and members was read, together with those replies which had been sent. Resolved on the motion of Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Williams "that the inward correspondence be received and outward correspondence be approved." An adjournment for lunch was then taken, the time being 1.5 p.m.

RESUMPTION - CONSTITUTION:- The meeting resumed at 1.45 p.m. when letters were read from Branches, dealing with the proposed changes in the Constitution. Resolved on the motion of Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Williams "that having considered the replies from Branches, this Executive re-affirm its decision that the Constitution should be amended on the lines set out and that further representation be made to those Branches not in agreement."

Mr. Penrose suggested that the Standing Committee consider the advisability of deleting the present reference to Delegates Votes in the suggested amendments and make provision for the noting by Branches that a Delegate's vote is required on a remit when it is sent in. The matter was briefly considered and finally left to the Standing Committee to decide.

FARMERS' FEDERATION :- Resolved on the motion of Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Williams, "that the President (Mr. E. A. Field) be appointed as the Association's representative in the Farmers' Federation."

DIRECT ACTION BY BRANCHES :- The question of taking some action against Branches who approach Ministers or Government Departments over the heads of the Executive was discussed, it finally being decided that the matter be left to the Editor to mention in the Journal.

BEEKEEPING APPLIANCES :- Decided in respect of Remit 25, that the Ministry of Supply be written to in regard to tinsplate, timber, wire guaze, queen excluders etc.

NOTICE OF MOTION :- Publication of Balance Sheet -

Mr. McFadzien formally moved the motion, notice of which was given at the meeting held in February, 1944. This was seconded by Mr. Penrose. Mr. Williams moved and Mr. Kirk seconded, as an amendment, "that each Branch be circulated with a copy of the annual report and balance sheet."

This was carried and on being put as the motion was carried unanimously.

GOVERNMENT GRANT :- Resolved on the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. McFadzien "that application be made to the Minister for the usual grant of £100."

JOURNAL :- Mr. Lennon reported upon several matters, relating to the publication and circulation of the Journal. He also stated that it was now permissible to publish a full pre-war size issue although there would probably be a small increase in cost. It was agreed that the full size Journal be reinstated, the President saying it might be preferable at a later stage to issue the Journal at more frequent intervals than at present. This disposed of the business of the meeting which closed at 4.15 p.m. after a compliment had been paid to the Chair.

CONFIRMED.

DATE... 14-2-45.....

CHAIRMAN... E. A. Field.....

18

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE,
HELD IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, FOXTON ON
THE 11TH. & 12TH. SEPTEMBER, 1944, COMMENCING
AT 3 P.M. ON THE FORMER DATE.

PRESENT :- Messrs. E. A. Field (Chairman) W. J. Lennon and G. V. Fraser.

CORRESPONDENCE to and from the Minister of Marketing, the Director of the Internal Marketing Division, the Ministry of Supply and members of the General Executive were read. Outward correspondence was approved and inward received.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION :- This matter was reviewed in the light of the discussions which took place at the meeting of the General Executive in July. It was decided that further action be held over and that the Editor of the Journal would elucidate the important points connected therewith in forthcoming issues of the "Beekeeper".

CONFERENCE :- Letters received from Messrs. McFadzien, Penrose and Lennon urging that in view of the lifting of restrictions on rail travel Conference be called at the end of September or early October.
The Secretary reported having conferred with the President over the matter and said that owing to the lateness of the year and the consequent inability of many North Island Beekeepers to attend, the holding of Conference was considered impracticable.
The matter was discussed at some length and after considering all angles it was unanimously agreed that the decision reached was the correct one.

LICENSING OF APIARY SITES :- Consideration was given to the Circular sent to members of the General Executive suggesting a Postal Ballot, the Secretary making it clear that the idea did not emanate from the Minister but was designed to test the feelings of the Executive who had already pressed the Minister to have a Bill submitted to Parliament at the earliest date. Finally it was decided that in view of the fact that the holding of a Postal Ballot would be establishing a precedent and in view also of the expressions of disapproval from South Island members, the idea should be dropped.

MARKETING REGULATIONS :- A letter just to hand from the Acting Director of the Internal Marketing Division stated that the Regulations for the 1944-45 season had been drafted incorporating the four points submitted by the General Executive and that they would be gazetted as soon as Cabinet had approved same, probably during the present month. The Committee expressed regret that the Regulations had not been submitted to the Association before they had been placed before Cabinet.

VISIT TO BRANCHES :- The formation of a new Branch of the Association at Nelson was welcomed by the Committee and the desirability of acceding to their request for a visit from a member of the General Executive was agreed upon. The Committee agreed to the arrangements made by Mr. Lennon to visit the Marlborough, Nelson and West Coast Branches on his way home to Omakau.

ADJOURNMENT :- The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

RESUMPTION :- The meeting was resumed at 11 a.m. on the 12th. instant.

ELECTIVE BOARD :- The Acting Director of the Internal Marketing Division wrote stating that finality in regard to the proposals for a new elective Board was now in sight and he hoped to be in a position to make a full statement on the matter at an early date.

The delays in setting up the new Board were discussed by the Committee and the advisability or otherwise of suggesting that an appointed Board be set up to act until such time as an election took place was considered.

Finally it was agreed that the Committee would see no reason for an appointed body being in office in the interim period, providing the elective Board is brought into being before the 1945-46 season.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT :- The Secretary referred to the large volume of correspondence being handled and stressed the necessity for an adequate filing cabinet for housing this and other records. Consideration of this matter was deferred pending enquiries as to the present-day cost of such equipment.

EXECUTIVE MEETING :- Decided that a meeting of the General Executive be called if possible by the beginning of March, 1945.

The meeting then concluded.

CONFIRMED.

DATE.....

CHAIRMAN.....